







## A CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL THE

LEADING SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS EDITORS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Dear Sir:—On the 26th day of January, 1862, there will be a meeting of leading preachers in Cincinnati, Ohio, to organize an anti-slavery society for the promotion and propagation of true governmental and social principles with but one plank in its platform, that being the abolition of slavery; and, as the idea is being to work for an absolute divorce of religion from the state, and to educate the people of America, so far as possible, towards another as their noble constitution allows. A great many people labor under the false idea that ours is "A Christian Commonwealth," that Christians have the right to direct the course which our government should pursue in regulating the conduct of its subjects. We want to make clear to the world what we mean by "Christianity." Dr. Wilson, with Tripoli, that "this is not a Christian government," and to say, emphatically, that Christians, as such, have no more right than any other to dictate the laws or some affairs of our nation. The founders of our republic were not Christians and this inherent fact is acknowledged by nearly every member of our family's committee. No such liberal and just document could have come from the Christian church because it could not, by the way of its self-constituted position, be world as the only infallible teacher of truth and morals, give either religious or social liberty to those whom she commands unconditionally. It is a remarkable fact that this government was founded by unbelievers, religious persecutors have been rare. It is the desire of the founders of the American organization to keep every country between and without the church boundaries, and to show by the principles of science and right reason that no sect has any authority to rule over any man, and that the only just government to maintain order and to see that one class does not usurp power upon another. The government of the United States has not yet done that, and that it cannot do, unless it gives up its self-constituted position of divine omnipotence which it claims to possess, nor the "divine commission" which it claims it received from its alleged master of the world, who would not let us go to the Christian congress showing the beginning of the end of the great Ecclesiastical delusion and the inauguration of a new era of the reign of truth and justice. The church is the Christian authority for truth. Although our constitution allows the freedom of the press, yet the Christians know that noble privilege by which they can be allowed to be libeled, by keeping the editors thereof in fear of losing their support. Why? Because Christians are afraid that if they tell the truth, the Christians will be in school funds for teaching Christianity and science and right reason.

Christians have had the presumption effronterly to brand Freethinkers "infidels," but we now have the undoubtless evidence of the truth of the matter in the work of uprooting superstition.

There is not an ecclesiastical dogma which they have disputed but what is false.

The can be scientifically maintained and at the Cincinnati congress Free thinkers will manifest their high office. Free thinkers have paid for their theories and not for the sake of argument, as bring them to life. The Cincinnati congress will be open to Christian criticism. Truth fears no foe.

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE.

T. B. BOWLES, President.

J. B. WILSON, Vice-President.

MORGAN WAMSLEY, Treasurer.

Note.—The above forcible letter was written to Mr. Morgan Wamsley, Minn., and enclosed in his circular letter to the editors throughout the country. The general interest shown by Mr. Maddock in the new start of the new Liberal organization, is a most commendable example of zeal and liberality.

### CONDENSED LETTERS.

Saltina, Kansas.—Enclosed check for \$2, one for membership of the N. L. L. and one for the Blade. I am pleased with the Blade and delighted with the growth of the N. L. L. C. W. STONE.

Michigan.—Would like to attend the Cincinnati Congress. Give my love to Mrs. Henry; tell her to be at the Convention and not to be afraid of the cold. Enclosed a novel gotten up to sell, 100 other novels. SARAH A. HAYES.

Brunswick, Maine.—Enclosed find \$2, and if you will another \$2 in three months I will cough it up for you. I would not do without the Blade for \$4 a year. It ought to have 100,000 readers. S. CURTH.

Pontiac, Ill.—Enclosed please find \$1 for the Blade. Good-bye. I am 78 years old, and do not feel good. Would like to have a free thought sermon at my grave. I will send in my name to Bro. Jamison for membership in the N. L. L.

ED BERTRAM.

Ackley, Iowa.—Enclosed find \$1 which, I think, pay for the Blade until December, this year. I like your paper first part, and am always anxious to read it, especially Wilson's, Roberts' and Moore's articles. But must

say that Kidder's articles are simply out of sight—can't beat his in fine. HENRY REINHART.

Laplant, Mo.—Find stamps to pay for Kidder's "Sacrament" and Wilson's speech. Wilson is the man to any thing that makes people think and so was Bro. Ingersoll.

Hooray for C. C. Moore!

BENJAMIN WRIGHT.

Vineland, N. J.—Enclosed find \$1 for my subscription. I am nearly 77 years old, and I intend to have the blade as long as I live. I am satisfied the way things have turned out, and shall send my \$1 to Mr. Jamison, and vote for the present officers.

WILLIAM DAWSON.

Mantorville, Minn.—I have enjoyed reading articles from Mrs. Henry and Dr. Wilson so much that I shall again send my \$1 for another year for the blade. If Dr. Wilson keeps at it he will be liable to occupy next place to Ingersoll in the list of great thinkers and Mrs. Henry will not be far behind.

O. S. CAMPBELL.

Atlanta, Ga.—Send the blade right away; don't wait. Will send you a club in a few days.

My best love to the old hero, C. C. Moore. I think he is not only a bric-a-brac, but the whole kiln. Long may he live. His writings alone are worth ten times the price of the paper. This is the result of my lending out my blades after reading them. I will help you in every way that I possibly can.

T. D. BELL.

Houston, Texas.—In the blade of December 29, Dr. Wilson's lecture is up to date. I will pay for \$5 worth in advance.

My wife and myself authorize you to Bro. Ingersoll to send our names to Bro. Jamison for membership in the National Liberal League.

M. V. WRIGHT AND N. J. WRIGHT P. S.—Send me enclosed 15 cents in blades of December 29. Mine is worn out from lending so much.

Liberty, Pa.—I like the Blue Grass blade for its brave and fearless stand. Have been trying to raise a club of 5. I stopped the Truth Seeker. I received several letters from Eugene, but soon found out he was not the model man I thought was editing the Truth Seeker. Note the contrast between the broad and generous Ernest Menken, and the narrow, intolerant, and selfish Eugene Macdonald. His harsh treatment of Wm. H. H. H. and his son, the editor of the Truth Seeker, is the greatest of all sins. He is a bric-a-brac, and I stopped my subscription for his paper. Like "God," he don't care a damn how the Christians use the school funds for teaching Christianity.

J. D. BECK.

Steubenville, Ohio.—Enclosed find \$1 for subscription for another year. I will try to send \$1 to Cincinnati to join the N. L. L. I do not agree with all his ideas, nor always admire his style, but I do, with all my heart, admire the devotion and principle and determination to stick shown by good old Moore. I am a member of the Universalist Church, and expect to remain so, but I think we need some breaking down work done, and the blade is doing it effectively. Dr. Wilson's article was great, I loaned out my blade containing it and they have read it all to others. I enclose a sum for another. Kidder's article in last edition, I shall be in Cincinnati, and shall mail it to Dr. Wilson.

GEORGE L. CASE.

Comment.—Let me my wife hear you call me "old" and you'll ketch hell—that's what's the matter with you.

Fabius, N. Y.—Have been a freethinker for 60 years. Tom Bennett's Truth Seeker from the start until 1900. Met Bennett, Seaver, Mendum, H. L. Green and others at Wobcott, N. Y., where we organized N. Y. State Free Thinkers Society. "Genie" did not follow in the foot steps of his illustrious predecessor. I personally know and admire Watson Heston. I am an atheist and a member of the Universalist Church, and their tendencies are with Dr. Wilson. The articles of J. B. Wilson, H. L. Green, and others I admire. Heston the most at Cincinnati will be a grand success. I enclose \$1 for the blade I had a grand visit to Alexander Campbell at Bethany, Va., where I suppose friend C. C. Moore was a preacher of Campbell's faith and order, while I was there a free thinker. And such is life!

HOMEER A. BILLINGS.

M. R. CHARLES SCOTT, THE BOSS EDITORIAL.

Mr. Charles Scott, the Lexington Opera House to have an "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

He got all the big rich phone Christians to buy it.

Lexington, Ky.—I am a Christian

and a socialist.

Ingersoll's Liberty in Literature.

Testimonial to Walt Whitman.

An address delivered in Philadelphia Dec. 21, 1892, with portraits of Whitman.

Also containing the funeral oration.

Paper, 25 cents; cloth, 50 cents.

What Must We Do Be Saved?

Analyzes the so-called Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

With a portrait of the great French philosopher and poet, never before published. Paper, 25 cents.

Ingersoll's Testimony to the Church.

Testimonial to Walt Whitman.

An address delivered in Philadelphia Dec. 21, 1892, with portraits of Whitman.

Also containing the funeral oration.

Paper, 25 cents; cloth, 50 cents.

What Must We Do Be Saved?

Analyzes the so-called Gospels of

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

With a portrait of the great French

philosopher and poet, never before

published. Paper, 25 cents.

Civil Rights Speech.

By R. G. Ingersoll, with speech of

the Rev. Dr. C. C. Moore.

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